

**Where:** The Centers are located at the VA New Jersey Health Care System, East Orange Campus, and the VA Medical Center, Washington, DC.

These two VA medical facilities have strong academic affiliations with medical and other health professional schools. The Centers undergo continuous internal and external review.

**How:** Veterans with undiagnosed illnesses can, with their providers, request an evaluation from one of the Centers. Once a referral from the local VA hospital is made, approval to be admitted to a Center can be granted. For VA health care providers to request referral, contact Helen Malaskiewicz in VA Central Office.



The evaluation is multidisciplinary yet focused on the particular problems of each individual veteran. Where possible, diagnoses are made, and in all cases, recommendations for management of the veteran's medical problem are given to the referring center.

Typically, admissions to a Center are for about seven days.

Prepared by the Environmental Agents Service (131)  
VA Central Office  
Washington, DC 20420

January 2002



## VA Centers for the Study of War-Related Illnesses (CSWRI)

*Information for VA Health Care Providers  
Seeking Ways to Improve Care for  
America's Military Veterans*



East Orange Campus, VA New Jersey  
Health Care System



VA Medical Center,  
Washington, DC

**What:** The Centers for the study of War-Related Illnesses have four major components focusing on veterans' health issues:



**Clinical Care**



**Research**



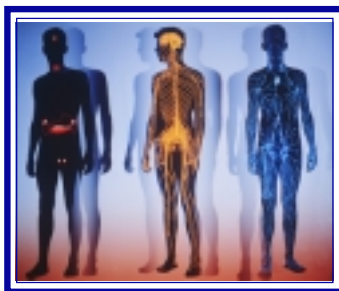
**Risk  
Communication**



**Education**

The Centers provide an in-depth examination and evaluation of the medical problems of veterans with

debilitating symptoms that remain unexplained after thorough medical examinations by the local VA medical center.



The Centers collaborate with each other and with Department of Defense personnel who are engaged in similar health care and research.

**When:** On May 10, 2001, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced the establishment of two Centers for the Study of War-Related Illnesses.

**Why:** These Centers were established to respond to the health problems of veterans from past and future conflicts and for improving the care of active duty and veteran patients with war-related illnesses. This demands that these illnesses be studied with the same scientific rigor American medicine has applied to many health problems.

Public Law 105-368 directed VA to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to help deliver a plan for establishing national centers for the study of war-related illnesses and post-deployment issues.

On November 5, 1999, the NAS concluded that creating Centers for the Study of War-Related Illnesses similar in structure to VA's Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers "should contribute greatly to the advancement of knowledge in this area" and recommended that VA proceed with the establishment of such centers.

**Who:** The Centers provide clinical care to veterans of all eras.

